

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01

AID-05 A-01 OC-01 CCO-00 OMB-01 OPR-01 SCS-03 SCA-01

SCCT-01 SY-04 USSS-00 /072 W
----- 041253

R 081815Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4744

INFO DIA

USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PGOV, PINT, BL

SUBJ: SECRUITY SITUATION AS OF MORNING, NOVEMBER 8

1. AS OF MORNING NOVEMBER 8, GOVERNMENT FORCES APPEARED TO BE IN ABSOLUTE CONTROL OF SITUATION IN LA PAZ AND REST OF COUNTRY. ALL INFORMATION MEDIA REPORT THAT COUP ATTEMPT IN SANTA CRUZ HAS BEEN COMPLETELY CONTROLLED. PRESIDENT BANZER IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO LA PAZ ABOUT MID-DAY ON NOVEMBER 8.

2. ACCORDING TO GOB PRESS BULLETIN RELEASED IN EARLY MORNING HOURS OF NOVEMBER 8, REBELLIOUS ELEMENTS OF MANCHEGO REGIMENT STAGED THREE SEPARATE ARMED ACTIONS IN SANTA CRUZ NOVEMBER 7, SUPPORTED BY CIVILIAN ELEMENTS LOYAL TO FALANGISTA LEADER CARLOS VALVERDE. COMMUNIQUE MAKES PARTICULAR POINT OF "TREASON"

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OF MAJOR EDGAR CHUMACERO, MANCHEGO UNIT COMMANDER, WHO

ACCOMPANIED PRESIDENT BANZER TO SANTA CRUZ AND THEN WENT OVER TO REBEL SIDE. ACCORDING TO THIS GOB BULLETIN CHUMACERO, TOGETHER WITH VALVERDE AND RETIRED GENERALS HORMANDO ALVAREZ AND JULIO PRADO MONTANO, FLED NORTH FROM SANTA CRUZ TOWARD MONTERO AFTER FAILURE OF THEIR ATTEMPTED COUP.

THUS FAR, GOB HAS MADE NO COMMENT ON VALVERDE'S RADIO STATEMENTS DURING EARLY MORNING HOURS NOVEMBER 7 THAT COUP ATTEMPT HAD THE SUPPORT OF EXILED MNR CHIEF VICTOR PAZ ESTENSSORO.

GOB CLAIMS THUS FAR TO HAVE TAKEN TWENTY-FIVE PRISONERS IN SANTA CRUZ OPERATION, INCLUDING LT. TITO FIORE, WHO WAS ALSO INVOLVED IN PREVIOUS JUNE 5, 1974 REBELLION IN LA PAZ.

PRESS ALSO REPORTS ARRESTS OF VARIOUS CIVILIAN POLITICIANS IN LA PAZ, INCLUDING ACTING PDC CHIEF FELIX VARGAS.

3. IN AFTERMATH OF SUCCESSFUL GOB SUPPRESSION OF SANTA CRUZ REVOLT, NATIONAL LEADERSHIPS OF BOTH MNR AND FSB CONGRATULATED BANZER GOVERNMENT ON ITS SUCCESS AND SWORE CONTINUING LOYALTY TO CURRENT GOB. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, BOTH PARTIES FIRMLY INSISTED ON NEED TO CONVOKE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY, THUS EMPHASIZING CONTINUING INTERNAL DIVISION WITHIN BANZER GOVERNMENT OVER THIS FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE FOR REGIME'S FUTURE.

4. CURRENT STATE OF SIEGE, IN ADDITION TO PROHIBITING MEETINGS AND PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, REQUIRES ALL PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT (THEATERS, BOITES, RESTAURANTS, ETC.) TO CLOSE BY MIDNIGHT. GROUPS OF MORE THAN THREE PERSONS MAY NOT BE ON THE STREETS BETWEEN 00:30 HOURS AND 6:00, AND DRIVERS MUST OBTAIN AUTHORIZATION TO USE VEHICLES BETWEEN 24:00 AND 06:00. SAFE-CONDUCT PASSES MUST BE OBTAINED FOR ALL TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF LA PAZ.
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